

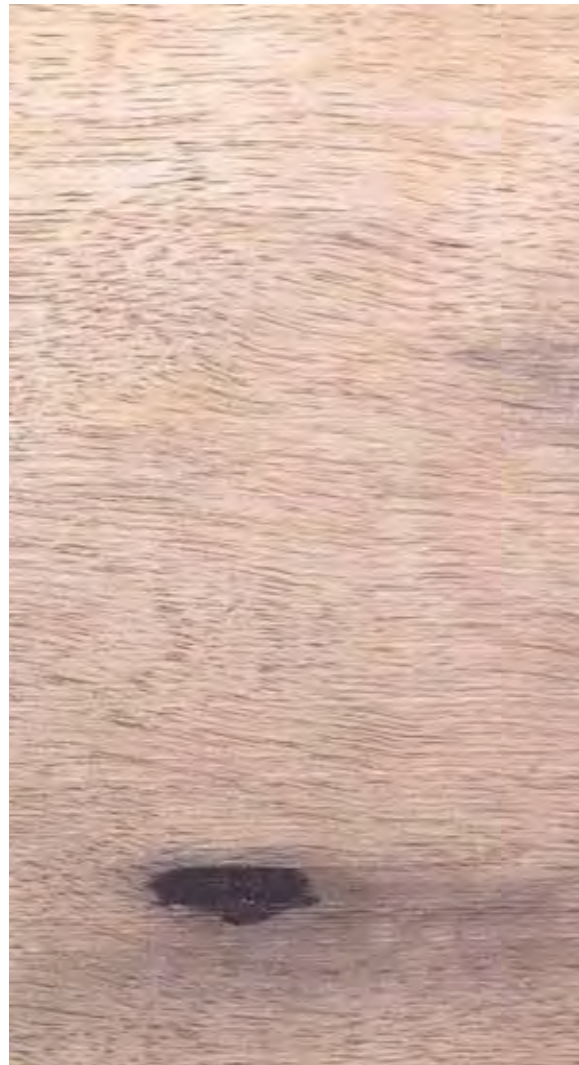
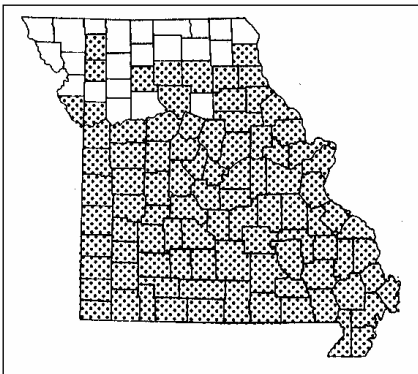
## Persimmon

*Diospyros virginiana* L.

Persimmon, sometimes called possomwood, grows throughout the lower two-thirds of Missouri and is the only species of the Ebony family found in the United States. It is an invader of old fields, but may be found as a scattered tree in forest habitats, particularly in rich bottomlands. It is frequently associated with eastern redcedar and sassafras on drier sites where it is usually only a small tree.

The sapwood is creamy white and practically all commercial products made from persimmon are made from its sapwood. The small amount of heartwood is blackish brown to black, often streaked and irregular in outline. The bark is thick, dark brown or black and deeply divided into small square blocks. The wood is quite heavy, extremely hard, dense and strong. In addition, when subjected to wear, it polishes to a very smooth surface. It is difficult to season, difficult to work with tools, but is fairly stable when dry. It is not at all resistant to decay and should never be used out-of-doors. Growth rings are distinct, but no conspicuous and the wood is semi-ring porous. It has an interlocking grain.

We seldom think of persimmon as lumber, yet for certain technical uses it is quite acceptable. It has been used for golf club heads and shuttles used in the textile industry. Only the sapwood is used, because the tree is largely sapwood. Most of the commercial persimmon comes from the southern United States. A popular feature of this tree is its edible fruit. Many people enjoy the flavor of persimmons which may be eaten directly from the tree. The fruit is also eaten by wildlife, notably opossums, foxes, raccoons, skunks and deer. It is generally not used in home workshops because it is seldom available as lumber.



Szopa

